

2017-2018 BUDGET QUESTION
Response to Request for Information

DEPARTMENT: Austin Code

REQUEST NO.: 89

REQUESTED BY: Casar

DATE REQUESTED: 8/15/17

DATE POSTED: 8/22/17

REQUEST: What is the potential for cost recovery using the repeat offender program registration fees? How many properties are registered on the repeat offender list right now? Is there significant variance projected in the future number of registrants? How many units are represented on the list right now? How many properties and units have been identified as repeat offender properties but have not paid the registration fee? How many units are in these repeat offender properties that have not paid the registration fee?

RESPONSE: The proposed registration fee for the Repeat Offender Program (ROP) recovers the Austin Code Department's (ACD) costs related to the Program's registration requirements. Inspections on the other hand, are not unique to properties subject to ROP and therefore are a part of ACD's standard processes. As a result, inspection costs are not recovered with the registration fee.

ACD was advised that any changes to the registration fee raises legal concerns, which must be addressed in a legal opinion. A legal opinion was prepared and subsequently provided by the City Attorney's Office to the department and Mayor and Council, on August 16, 2017, pursuant to the City's standard protocol for providing legal advice.

As of August 9, 2017, there are:

- 78 registered ROP properties, including 682 buildings and 8,569 dwelling units
- 32 ROP properties are delinquent in annual registration fee payment which collectively encompass 3,499 dwelling units